

THE LAUNCH STATEMENT FOR NATIONAL DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION PROCESS

WHEREAS Zambia has been lauded as a beacon of peace within the region, demonstrating a strong commitment to democratic processes since the advent of multi-party democracy in 1991 and has remained at **relative peace** 54 years after its independence;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Zambia is facing a number of political, social and economic challenges leading to the building up of tension, violence and polarisation in the country especially emanating from elections;

AGREEING that it is essential for the people of Zambia to move away from tribalism, political intolerance; the biased implementation of the Public Order Act and the need for all media to be ethical, professional and balanced in their coverage of events and issues, and demanding the observance of the rule of law and respect for human rights which are God-given and non-negotiable;

NOW THEREFORE, and in the name of God, we hereby officially launch the National Dialogue and Reconciliation Process in which all key stakeholders will truly participate in reshaping the future of this country because we all ***desire a conversion of hearts and minds, leading to a united, reconciled and peaceful Zambia where all citizens freely participate in governance within a thriving social and economic environment.***

MAY GOD BLESS US ALL AND BLESS OUR NATION!